

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

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R 270735Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0015

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

S E C R E T MANILA 14290

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MASS, RP

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND REGIONAL SECURITY

REF: A. MANILA 13736

B. STATE 244895

C. BANGKOK 19641

D. JAKARTA 14582

E. KUALA LUMPUR 5489

F. SINGAPORE 4869

1. IN REF A, I EXPRESSED SURPRISE TO LEARN FROM RECENT MAAG CONFERENCE THAT SECURITY ASSISTANCE OBJECTIVES FOR THE PHILIPPINES DID NOT INCLUDE ANY MENTION OF REGIONAL SECUGNTY. FROM THE VARIOUS RESPONSES WHICH ADDRESSEES HAVE MADE TO THAT MESSAGE, IT IS CLEAR THAT SOME FORM OF REFERENCE TO REGIONAL SECURITY IS ALREADY INCORPORATED INTO MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND OBJECTIVES OF AT LEAST TWO OTHER ASEAN NATIONS (INDONESIA AND THAILAND) AND

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WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE MORE LIMITED PROGRAMS UNDER

WAY IN THE OTHER TWO (MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE).

2. VARIOUS RESPONSES, INCLUDING THAT FROM THE DEPARTMENT (REF B) HAVE EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT PREMATURE U.S. ACTION IN "PUSHING" ASEAN INTO SECURITY ROLE BEFORE THE MEMBER STATES THEMSELVES INDICATE DESIRE FOR SUCH ACTION. I SHARE THIS PRECAUTION AND HAD NO INTENTION TO SUGGEST THAT U. S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO "FORCE" A REGIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENT AMONG ASEAN STATES. RATHER, MY CONCERN IS TO ALIGN OUR PROGRAMS IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY ENHANCE THE EVENTUAL PROSPECTS OF REGIONAL COOPERATION, AVOID NATIONAL REDUNDANCIES WHICH WOULD COMPLICATE SUCH COOPERATION, AND STRESS MATERIAL COMPATIBILITY WHICH WOULD FACILITATE THE PROCESS.

3. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE ALL U.S. COUNTRY TEAMS IN THE ASEAN STATES, AND ESPECIALLY THEIR SECURITY ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS, REQUIRED, AS PART OF THEIR GUIDANCE, TO EXAMINE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROPOSALS IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR EFFECT UPOFA AN EVENTUAL ASEAN SECURITY COOPERATION. I WOULD ALSO ENDORSE BANGKOK'S SUGGESTION (REF C) THAT, IN DUE COURSE, THERE SHOULD BE A SUBREGIONAL MEETING AMONG MAAG AND POL/MIL OFFICERS TO STUDY WAYS MAP COULD BE USED MORE EFFECTIVELY TO ENHANCE THIS OBJECTIVE.

4. AS AN INITIAL STEP, HOWEVER, I WISH TO PROPOSE THAT THE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES MEMORANDUM (POM) FOR FY 1976-80 AND THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GUIDANCE INSTRUCTIONS FOR FY 1976-80 IN THE ASEAN COUNTRIES CONTAIN LANGUAGE WHICH RECOGNIZES THESE GOALS. THE STANDARD LANGUAGE OF THE POM ALREADY SEEMS BROAD ENOUGH TO ENCOMPASS THE PURPOSE, AND IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE NEW VERSION WILL BE OUT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. IN THE ASEAN COUNTRY TEAM RESPONSES TO THAT DOCUMENT AND IN THE SUBSEQUENT GUIDANCE PAPERS, I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO SEE UNIFORM LANGUAGE INCLUDED, NOT ONLY AS GUIDANCE FOR FY 1976-80, BUT ALSO, IF BUREAUCRATICALLY POSSIBLE, TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FY 1975 GUIDANCE AS WELL.

5. THE LANGUAGE I WOULD PROPOSE AS ONE OF THE GUIDANCE
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PARAGRAPHS WOULD READ:

" SUPPORT PROGRAMS, BOTH IN GRANT AID AND SALES, WHICH WILL ENHANCE DEFENSE MATERIEL COMPATIBILITY, AVOID REDUNDANCY, AND EVENTUALLY STIMULATE COMPLEMENTARITY AMONG THE NATIONAL DEFENSE FORCES OF THE COUNTRIES IN THE ASEAN REGION."

6. THIS IS NOT A VERY DRAMATIC PROPOSAL; BUT, IF ACCEPTABLE,

WOULD LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR A MORE SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO
A SECURITY OBJECTIVE WHICH IS CLEARLY IN THE LONG RANGE
U.S. INTEREST.
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